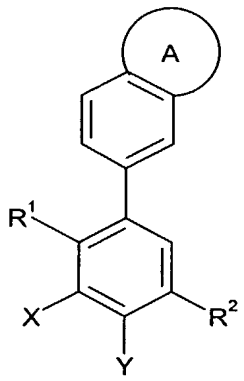
CLAIMS

1. A compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring substituted by $-(CH_2)_m$aryl or $-(CH_2)_m$heteroaryl wherein the aryl or heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or more substituents independently selected from oxo, C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen, -CN, trifluoromethyl, $-OR^3$, $-(CH_2)_nCO_2R^3$, $-NR^3R^4$, $-(CH_2)_nCONR^3R^4$, $-NHCOR^3$, $-SO_2NR^3R^4$, $-NHSO_2R^3$ and $-S(O)_pR^3$, and

A is optionally further substituted by one substituent selected from $-OR^5$, halogen, trifluoromethyl, -CN, $-CO_2R^5$ and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by hydroxy;

R^1 is selected from methyl and chloro;

R^2 is selected from $-NH-CO-R^6$ and $-CO-NH-(CH_2)_q-R^7$;

R^3 is selected from hydrogen, $-(CH_2)_r-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, $-(CH_2)_r$heterocyclyl, $-(CH_2)_r$aryl, and C_{1-6}alkyl optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from $-OR^8$ and $-NR^8R^9$,

R^4 is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^3 and R^4, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and $N-R^{10}$;

R^5 is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^6 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, $-(CH_2)_q-C_{3-7}$cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, $-(CH_2)_s$heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{11} and/or R^{12}, and $-(CH_2)_s$phenyl optionally substituted by R^{11} and/or R^{12};

R^7 is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, $-CONHR^{13}$, phenyl optionally substituted by R^{11} and/or R^{12}, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by R^{11} and/or R^{12};

R^8 and R^9 are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^{10} is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

R^{11} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, -$(CH_2)_q$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl, -$CONR^{13}R^{14}$, -$NHCOR^{14}$, halogen, -CN, -$(CH_2)_tNR^{15}R^{16}$, trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more R^{12} groups, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by one or more R^{12} groups;

R^{12} is selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl, and -$(CH_2)_tNR^{15}R^{16}$;

R^{13} and R^{14} are each independently selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{13} and R^{14}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{10}, wherein the ring may be substituted by up to two C_{1-6}alkyl groups;

R^{15} is selected from hydrogen, C_{1-6}alkyl and -$(CH_2)_q$-C_{3-7}cycloalkyl optionally substituted by C_{1-6}alkyl,

R^{16} is selected from hydrogen and C_{1-6}alkyl, or

R^{15} and R^{16}, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R^{10};

X and Y are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and halogen;

m, n, p and q are each independently selected from 0, 1 and 2;

r and s are each independently selected from 0 and 1; and

t is selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;

with the proviso that when A is substituted by -$(CH_2)_m$heteroaryl and m is 0, the -$(CH_2)_m$heteroaryl group is not a 5-membered heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by C_{1-2}alkyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing up to two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen.

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein R^1 is methyl.

4. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein R^2 is -CO-NH-$(CH_2)_q$-R^7.

5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein A is substituted by -$(CH_2)_m$heteroaryl wherein the heteroaryl is a 5- or 6-membered heteroaryl ring containing up to two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen.

6. A compound according to claim 5 wherein the the heteroaryl is optionally substituted by one or two substituents independently selected from oxo, C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen, -OR^3, -NR^3R^4 and -$(CH_2)_nCONR^3R^4$.

7. A compound according to claim 6 wherein the heteroaryl is substituted by one or two substituents independently selected from oxo and C_{1-6}alkyl.

8. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 4 wherein A is substituted by -$(CH_2)_m$aryl wherein the aryl is phenyl.

9. A compound according to claim 8 wherein the aryl is substituted by one or two substituents independently selected from C_{1-6}alkyl, halogen, -CN, trifluoromethyl, -OR^3, -NR^3R^4, -$(CH_2)_nCONR^3R^4$ and -$S(O)_pR^3$.

10. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein X is hydrogen or fluorine.

11. A compound according to claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore defined with reference to any one of Examples 1 to 82, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

12. A compound selected from:
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-(1-phenyl-1*H*-indazol-5-yl)benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-5-[1-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-indazol-5-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-5-[1-(4-fluoro-2-methylphenyl)-1*H*-indazol-5-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-{1-[4-(4-morpholinyl)phenyl]-1*H*-indazol-5-yl}benzamide;
N-ethyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-(1-phenyl-1*H*-indazol-5-yl)benzamide;
N-(cyclopropylmethyl)-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-(1-phenyl-1*H*-indazol-5-yl)benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-{1-[4-(methylsulfonyl)phenyl]-1*H*-indazol-5-yl}benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-(1-{4-[2-(methylamino)-2-oxoethyl]phenyl}-1*H*-indazol-5-yl)benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-[1-(4-{[2-(dimethylamino)ethyl]amino}phenyl)-1*H*-indazol-5-yl]-5-fluoro-4-methylbenzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-{1-[4-(tetrahydro-2*H*-pyran-4-ylamino)phenyl]-1*H*-indazol-5-yl}benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-(1-{4-[(tetrahydro-2-furanylmethyl)amino]phenyl}-1*H*-indazol-5-yl)benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-(1-{4-[(2,3-dihydroxypropyl)amino]phenyl}-1*H*-indazol-5-yl)-5-fluoro-4-methylbenzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-{3-[4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1,2-benzisoxazol-6-yl}benzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-hydroxyphenyl)-1,2-benzisoxazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-fluoro-4-methyl-5-{1-[(1-oxido-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-1*H*-indazol-5-yl}benzamide;
N-ethyl-3-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-indazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
N-cyclopropyl-3-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-indazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
N-ethyl-4-methyl-3-{3-[4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1*H*-indazol-6-yl}benzamide;

N-cyclopropyl-4-methyl-3-{3-[4-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1*H*-indazol-6-yl}benzamide;
N-(1-ethyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)-3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-indazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1H-indazol-6-yl]-4-methyl-N-(1-methyl-1H-pyrazol-5-yl)benzamide;
N-ethyl-3-fluoro-5-{3-[4-fluoro-2-(methyloxy)phenyl]-1H-indazol-6-yl}-4-methylbenzamide;
N-(1,4-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-3-fluoro-5-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-indazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide; and
N-(1,4-dimethyl-1*H*-pyrazol-5-yl)-3-[3-(4-fluorophenyl)-1*H*-indazol-6-yl]-4-methylbenzamide;
or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

13. A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, in association with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable excipients, diluents and/or carriers.

14. A compound according to any one of claims 1 to 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, for use in therapy.

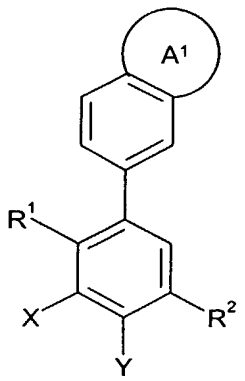
15. A compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, for use in the treatment or prophylaxis of a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.

16. A method for treating a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof.

17. Use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.

18. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 12, or a pharmaceutically acceptable derivative thereof, which comprises

(a) reacting a compound of formula (II)



(II)

in which R^1, R^2, X and Y are as defined in claim 1 and A^1 is an unsubstituted fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring with a halide derivative of formula (IIIA) or (IIIB)

$$Z\text{-}(CH_2)_m\text{aryl} \quad \text{(IIIA)}$$

$$Z\text{-}(CH_2)_m\text{heteroaryl} \quad \text{(IIIB)}$$

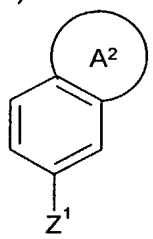
in which $-(CH_2)_m$aryl and $-(CH_2)_m$heteroaryl are as defined in claim 1 and Z is halogen, in the presence of a base,

or, when A is substituted by $-(CH_2)_m$aryl wherein m is 0, reacting the compound of formula (II) with a boronic acid compound of formula (IV)

$$(HO)_2B\text{-}(CH_2)_m\text{aryl} \quad \text{(IV)}$$

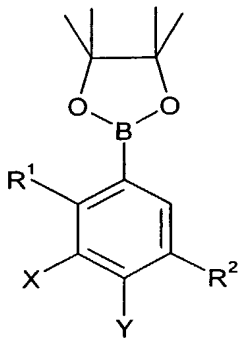
in which $-(CH_2)_m$aryl is as defined in claim 1,

(b) reacting a compound of formula (V)

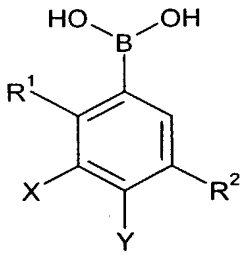


(V)

in which A^2 is A as defined in claim 1 and Z^1 is halogen, with a compound of formula (VIA) or (VIB)



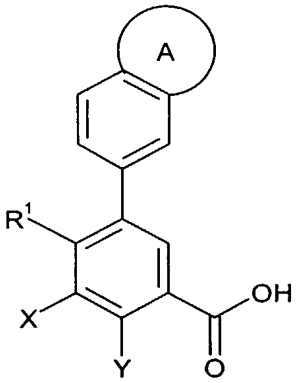
(VIA)



(VIB)

in which R^1, R^2, X and Y are as defined in claim 1,
in the presence of a catalyst;

(c) reacting a compound of formula (XVI)



(XVI)

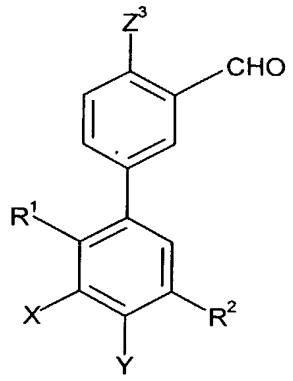
in which A, R^1, X and Y are as defined in claim 1,
with an amine compound of formula (XV)

$$R^7\text{-}(CH_2)_q\text{-}NH_2$$

(XV)

in which R^7 and q are as defined in claim 1,
under amide forming conditions;

d) when A is a fused pyrazolyl, reacting a compound of formula (XVII)



(XVII)

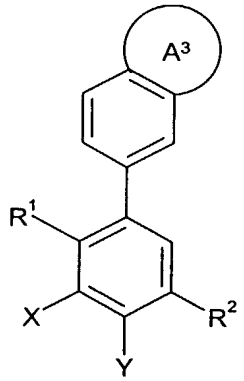
in which R^1, R^2, X and Y are as defined in claim 1 and Z^3 is halogen, with a hydrazine derivative of formula (VIIIA) or (VIIIB)

$$H_2NNH\text{-}(CH_2)_m\text{aryl} \quad \text{(VIIIA)}$$

$$H_2NNH\text{-}(CH_2)_m\text{heteroaryl} \quad \text{(VIIIB)}$$

in which $-(CH_2)_m$aryl and $-(CH_2)_m$heteroaryl are as defined in claim 1;

(e) reacting a compound of formula (XVIII)



(XVIII)

in which R^1, R^2, X and Y are as defined in claim 1 and A^3 is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring substituted by halogen, with a suitable boronic acid derivative; or

(f) final stage modification of one compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1 to give another compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.